



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS**  
**INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Regional Directors  
Directors, Local Health Departments  
Directors, Independent WIC Local Agencies  
Herman Horn, Chief, Bureau of Regional/Local Health Operations

**FROM:** Barbara Keir, Director  
Public Health Nutrition and Education  
Bureau of Nutrition Services *[Signature]*

**DATE:** January 14, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Funding for Lactation Expenses

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Many local agencies were able to expand their lactation services during FY 1999 because of USDA discretionary funds which were made available for lactation expenses. Some services provided with these funds included:

- **high** risk breastfeeding moms were seen by lactation consultants.
- lactation consultants were hired to provide breastfeeding training to WIC staff.
- nursing rooms were established to provide private consultations and a private place for WIC moms and staff to nurse.
- local agencies were able to provide moms with necessary breastfeeding aids such as breast shells and nursing pads.

Several local agencies have expressed the desire to continue these services. Although discretionary funding was not renewed for FY 2000 for lactation expenses, the State Agency will continue funding these types of lactation expenses using WIC Administrative funds.

Local agencies will be reimbursed over contract for funds used to pay Certified Lactation Consultants (LC), or qualified equivalent, who perform the following services:

- Counsel WIC moms with breastfeeding problems that are beyond the expertise of WIC staff. These types of problems include inverted or sore nipples, uncoordinated suck, tight frenulum, cleft palate, nipple confusion, or infants with special needs.
- Provide training to WIC staff, conduct special breastfeeding classes or support group sessions, or assist with WIC sponsored workshops for health-care professionals

This funding can pay for lactation consults by qualified people who are already on contract, qualified people that can be put on contract according to policy AC 3.16.1, or a qualified employee after normal working hours depending on local agency personnel policies and procedures.

The lactation expense funding can also be used in the following ways:

- Pay for equipment that would complement lactation consultants such as nursing bras and pads, supplemental nursing systems, nipple shields and/or shells.
- Establish and supply a nursing room which could be used for lactation consultations and a private place for WIC breastfeeding moms and staff to nurse and pump.

The lactation expense funding can be used for applicable breastfeeding expenses incurred from October 1, 1999 thru September 30, 2000. The maximum dollar amount available to each LA will depend on the number of LAs pursuing this funding.

If you are interested in receiving any of the funds for breastfeeding expenses as outlined in this memo, please complete the attached form and fax to the State Agency at (512) 458-7446 by **Monday, January 31, 2000**. Only those LAs returning this form will be eligible to receive this funding. State Agency staff will contact you regarding this initiative after receiving your fax.

If you have already received verbal approval to continue these services, please complete and return the attached form and continue to bill for these approved lactation expenses on a separate State of Texas Purchase Voucher (B- 13) from your regular WIC requests.

If you have any questions regarding this lactation expense funding, contact Tracy Erickson, WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator, or Mary Van Eck, Nutrition Education Coordinator at (512) 458-7444. Questions concerning accounting or contracts should be directed to Mr. Joe Serrano, Accountant VI, at (5 12) 458-7641.

Attachment

\_\_\_\_ Yes, we are interested in requesting \$\_\_\_\_ (estimate dollar amount you will need) for lactation expenses outlined in this memo. I understand this funding is available for services incurred between October 1, 1999 and September 30, 2000.

WIC Director \_\_\_\_\_

Local Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local Agency # \_\_\_\_\_

Breastfeeding Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax to:**  
**Tracy Erickson at (512) 458-7446**  
**Return by Monday, January 31, 2000**